

George Emery, married Sarah J. (Peggy) Sperry;

Francis Azel, died in childhood.

Sidney Theophilus Epperson and Julia Eliza Van Wagonen Epperson were a handsome, charming couple of early Wasatch Valley days. They made the best possible time of their interesting lives. "Offie" was a very lovable person. He was athletic and an excellent wrestler. Eliza was tall, jolly and feminine. She loved dancing and was quite a noted step dancer, often winning prizes. She loved masquerade dances and often posed as a Spanish Dancer. After dances she fixed oyster suppers for the crowd. She loved to wear fluffy white dresses in the summer and loved jewelry, perfume and gloves. She played the concertina at times for dances and accompanied herself on the mandolin when she sang. Their three sons had an orchestra and the parents loved to travel with them. "Offie" would teach shy young boys how to dance.

"Offie's" father had a livery stable and he liked horses, used his own fine team for hauling logs and timber to Provo, Park City and Salt Lake City. He also hauled all the brick for College Hall in Provo. Early in life he was injured in a fall on the ice in such a way as to make walking difficult for him. He was the eldest of 10 boys and three girls.

His wife, Julia Eliza Van Wagonen was eldest of seven brothers and four sisters. Her parents were David Van Wagonen and Julia Ann Provost. They came to Utah in 1852 by ox team.

Sidney T. Epperson's father was the first presiding elder of Midway.

Julia Eliza's father was the first bishop of Midway.

## SIMON SHELBY AND LYDIA SMITH EPPERSON

Simon Shelby Epperson was born in Midway, January 12, 1871, the seventh son of Sidney Hiram and Mary Jane Robey Epperson. He married Lydia Melissa Smith April 4, 1890, at the Smith Grove in Midway. The marriage was later solemnized in the Salt Lake Temple. He died December 29, 1950, in Salt Lake City and is buried in Midway.

Lydia Melissa Smith Epperson was born in Midway August 2, 1873, the eighth child of Benjamin Mark and Elizabeth Agness



Wood Smith. She died May 4, 1956 in Salt Lake City and is buried in Midway.

Simon graduated from the old Brigham Young Academy in Provo in 1892 and taught school in Midway seven years. He also served as secretary of the Midway Town Corporation and secretary of the Midway Waterworks and Irrigation Company.

He was part owner of the Midway Drug Company and owned and operated the Midway Livery Stable. He was an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and served as ward clerk and chorister of the Midway First Ward under Bishop Coleman for seven years. He worked also in the Sunday School and YMMIA.

From 1906 to 1919 Mr. Epperson served as branch manager of the Studebaker Corporation in Heber. He was Sunday School chorister of the Second Ward, a member of the Sunday School Union Board and second counselor to David A. Broadbent when religion classes were first organized in the stakes. Moved to Silver City in 1919 where he was associated with the Iron Blossom Mining Company and Knight's Investment Company. He was first counselor to Bishop Jesse Haws and ward chorister. In 1924 he moved his family to Pioche, Nevada, where he was bookkeeper and assayer for the Bristol Silver Mining Company. Moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1926 and became associated with the Park Utah Consolidated Mining Company and later the original Utah Woolen Mills. He was an active member of the High Priest Quorum in Marlborough Ward.

Though he traveled far from the place of his birth, his spirit always remained in the Wasatch Valley.

Lydia was an active member of the Church all her life. She came from a musical family and sang in the choir of every ward she lived in. She was a counselor in the YWMIA in the Midway and Heber

Wards where she also worked in the Relief Society for twenty years. When the family moved to Silver City in May 1919 she was again active in church and civic affairs. She was called as counselor in the YWMIA and also taught Sunday School and religion classes. In Salt Lake Lydia was called to YWMIA and Relief Society work in the Fourteenth Ward and later in the Hawthorne and Marlborough Wards. She was a visiting teacher until ill health forced her to give up all of her activities and confined her to her home.

Children of Simon and Lydia Epperson included:

Jennie Agness, married Alvah A. Ross; Vida Lydia, died in youth; Simon Doyle, married Margaret Ellen Murdock;

Edith Rosedale, died in youth; Juanita, died in infancy; Erma Lavella, married Joel D. Hickman; Frank Ross, married Cora H. Farmer; Lillian Estelle; Victor Robey, married Nellie Hachmeister.



In high style for her day is Mrs. Simon Epperson shown here with the popular horse "Skipper" known throughout Wasatch County. She is seated in a buggy from her husband's livery stable. The photograph was taken in 1911.

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